

CALIFORNIA BIODIVERSITY NEWS

California Biodiversity Council

Fall/Winter 2006 Vol. 13 No. 2



**By
Mike
Chrisman**
Co-Chair,
California
Biodiversity
Council

FROM THE CHAIR

California and Baja California share not only a common border, but also a desire to protect our environment and conserve the border region's natural resources and biodiversity. I am excited to announce that this month's California Biodiversity Council meeting in San Diego will highlight these issues.

The border region (Las Californias) is one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, an area that supports high concentrations of species that in recent decades have suffered extensive habitat loss. More than 400 species in this region are endangered, threatened or otherwise sensitive to human impacts. Some of these species are found no-

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Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative

A vision for habitat conservation in California - Baja California borderlands

*by Kathy Viatella,
The Nature Conservancy*

Borderlands - a biodiversity hotspot

Along the western frontier of the U.S.-Mexico border-where California and Baja California meet - is a place of unique natural beauty and cultural richness. The center of a global biodiversity hotspot, this region named Las Californias harbors ecosystems and species that occur nowhere else on Earth. Today this environment ac-

commodates a growing metropolis that is home to more than 5 million people. Burgeoning population growth on both sides of the border increasingly strains the natural resources that residents in Mexico, the United States, and First Nation neighbors alike depend upon for their well-being.

Las Californias supports a dramatic landscape spanning Southern San Diego County and Northern Baja Califor-

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Council Learns About Coordinated Planning in the Central Valley

by Mike Chapel, US Forest Service

The Council met in Merced on April 5-6, 2006 to discuss coordinated conservation and planning in the Central valley. A field tour to the Grasslands on April 5 highlighted the close coordination among private landowners and all levels of government to conserve the largest remaining wetlands complex in the state. The meeting on April 6 was

organized as a series of panels that provided the Council with an overview of the conservation setting in the Central Valley, some innovative agency cooperation with regional growth management, and some new opportunities for agency coordination in natural resource conservation.

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From the Chair

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where else on earth.

The "Biodiversity Along the Border" meeting will provide an occasion to discuss opportunities for transborder cooperation such as the Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative. This initiative calls for development of a common vision for landscape-scale conservation strategies, sustainable land use planning, and workable management programs along the border. The long-term goal is for U.S. and Mexican governments, academic and research institutions, and nongovernmental conservation organizations to embrace and adopt a shared conservation vision for the region, and to refine this vision over time with focused research and planning.

With these objectives in mind, I will

invite our counterparts in Baja California to work cooperatively to establish an approach for cross-border collaboration in areas of high biological diversity. Examples of this collaboration could include offering technical assistance on issues of mutual concern, benefits such as binational mapping, protection of transboundary watersheds, and harmonization of endangered species lists.

Our meeting will also provide an opportunity to tour the Tijuana River watershed to witness the human impacts throughout the border region on water, wildlife, and habitat in this area.

"Biodiversity Along the Border" promises to be an exciting and informative meeting. I look forward to seeing you in San Diego. ☞

Rancho Cuchuma/ Tecate Peak

by Janaye Byergo,
Bureau of Land Management

An Area of Binational Conservation Partnership

The region of Tecate, California and Tecate, Baja California supports a land mass that is biologically diverse and culturally significant. The point of interest in this area is Tecate Peak, a prominent landscape feature that straddles the U.S.-Mexico border. This prominent feature is shared in ownership by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and Fundacion La Puerta.

The majority of the area encompassing Tecate Peak is managed by the reaches of Tecate Peak that extend into Mexico. Fundacion La Puerta is concerned with environmental protection of the area's valuable and unique resources, especially the conservation of chaparral habitat.

In 2003 Pronatura partnered with Fundacion La Puerta to develop a conservation easement (servidumbre ecologica) creating the Rancho Cuchuma Conservation Reserve. Pronatura, a non-profit/non-governmental organization in Mexico is dedicated



A dark-eyed Junco, one of the many bird species living in the Las Californias region.

Photo: US Fish & Wildlife Service

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Great Places Program

A GIS Public-Private Partnership

Luree Stetson, Program Coordinator for the Great Places Program (GPP), gave an overview of the program and asked CBC members to cooperate with its effort in the San Joaquin Valley. The program's statewide goals are to: 1) improve and integrate natural resource and key planning data for more effective regional planning and program decisions; 2) improve access to, and use of, natural resource and planning data through an on-line, centralized spatial data system; and 3) establish processes for sharing data between local, regional, and state entities. The California Business, Transportation & Housing Agency, Resources Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Department of Fish and Game and Department of Transportation jointly manage the Great Places Program (GPP). Because of Governor Schwarzenegger's emphasis in the eight-county San Joaquin Valley, the program is updating data and making it more accessible to planning and transportation decision-makers in this critical area. GPP is

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Tenth Anniversary of the Border Fire Council

by Greg Thomsen,
Bureau of Land Management

The Border Area Fire Council celebrated its 10th anniversary. The Council was formed in 1996 to develop a coordinated bi-national strategy to offer protection of life, property, and natural resources in the border areas of San Diego County and North Baja. Border-related wildfires create unique hazards and challenges. The value of the Council was highlighted when the 4,100 acre Border 50 wildfire was successfully suppressed through a cooperative effort of Mexican and U.S. agencies. Like several other wildland fires, this fire started in Mexico and spread rapidly into the U.S., then continued to expand in Mexico. Mexican police escorted a strike team of 12 U.S. fire engines and 50 firefighters through the City of Tecate to stop the fire at the

doorstep of city neighborhoods. Air tankers supplemented the on-the-ground force. A relieved Tecate fire chief told the crews that 2,000 homes had been saved. "People were lining the streets, waving to us, giving us the thumbs up," said a San Diego fire chief. This collaborative venture was facilitated by the planning of the Border Area Fire Council, which is made up of 38 federal, state and local organizations from the U.S. and Mexico. The Council has strengthened the ability of U.S. fire crews to go one mile into Mexico to save lives and property. In addition, the Council has agreements in place to quickly allow the U.S. Border Patrol, Bureau of Land Management, the California Division of Forestry, and others to fight fires under a unified command. ☞



Border 50 Wildfire, October 2005

Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative

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nia. From the Pacific Ocean, coastal mesas rise to rolling foothills that dip into vast fertile valleys, giving way to the rugged mountains of the Peninsular Ranges. This range of features, combined with varied rainfall and tempera-

tures, has shaped the plants and animals that have evolved here, including signature species like the federally listed California gnatcatcher, Quino checkerspot butterfly, arroyo toad and Peninsular bighorn sheep.

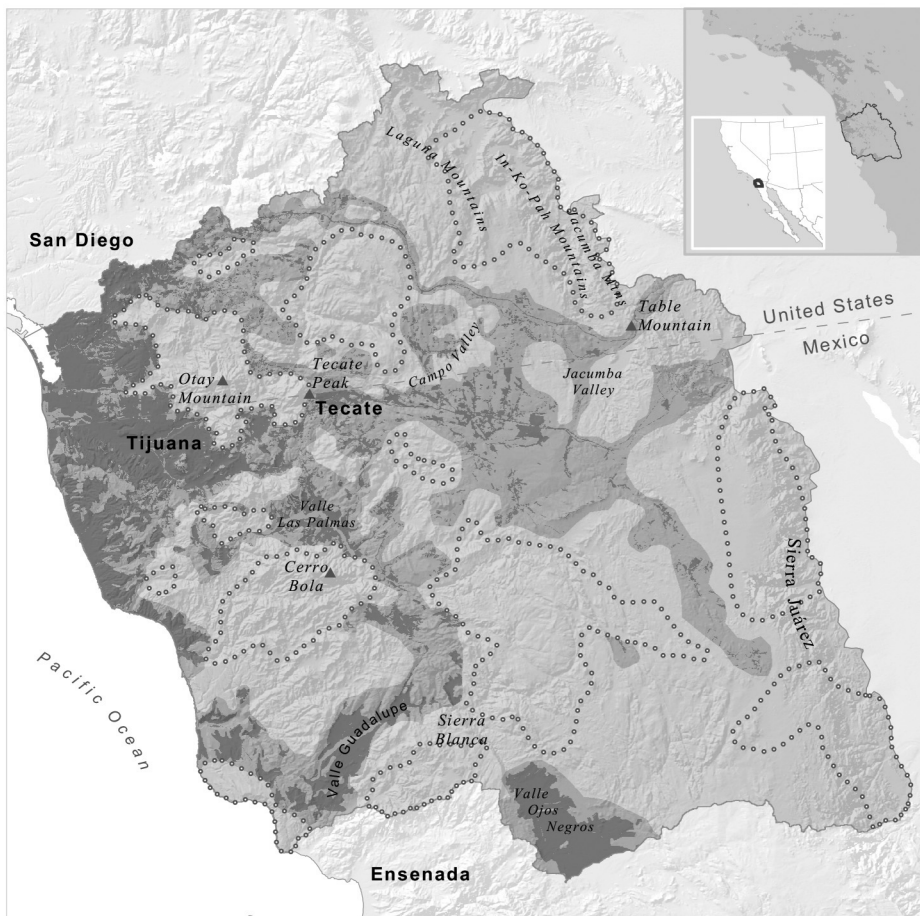
Under Threat

But this biodiversity is at risk. Encroaching development along both sides of the border threatens to sever the two Californias. Over the next few years, land use planning decisions, on both sides of the border, will define the character of the landscape and people's future. Historically, planning decisions have overlooked the shared resources and opportunities for trans-boundary collaboration. Natural landscapes and their associated ecological processes provide environmental services, such as the protection of water supplies and water quality, prevention of flooding and erosion, as well as recreation and scenic vistas. These processes function across large areas. Conserving a network of large, intact and connected landscapes will allow ecological and evolutionary processes to keep pace with climate change and other human-induced impacts.

A Vision for Binational Habitat Conservation

Three non-profit conservation organizations - Conservation Biology Institute, The Nature Conservancy, and Pronatura - have come together to create a science-based vision for acquisition and management strategies that address a range of conservation targets including large intact wildlands, wildlife corridors that span the border, and

Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative



Intensive - urban development

Vision: Protect environmental health, urban greenspace, restricted species

Moderately intensive - ag and rural development

Vision: Protect ecosystem services, wildlife corridors, sustainable communities

Light - grazing and working landscapes

Vision: Protect ecological processes, landscape permeability, & compatible development

Natural landscapes with minimal human impacts

Vision: Protect ecological function & intactness, and the viability of representative biodiversity

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A BETTER TIJUANA, ONE HOME AT A TIME

by Rob Davis, Voice of San Diego
July 31, 2006

On a rainy night three decades ago, Oscar Romo took his first walk through Tijuana's muddy streets. Now he is working to improve public health in Mexico -- with the hope of boosting environmental health in San Diego.

The diplomat arrives in Tijuana's airport for the first time in the late 1970s. No taxis are waiting. Rain is pouring. The dirt streets are muddy. He has no way to get to San Diego.

So he takes a bus partway, then walks the rain-soaked roads. His suit gets filthy. This is not the reception he expected.

Oscar Romo, in his late 20s and documenting immigration and the border for UNESCO, the United Nation's educational agency, reaches the border and crosses into San Diego, all wide streets, paved and clean.

The mess is gone.

In a lifetime of travel along the 1,951-mile U.S.-Mexico border, Romo says no place seems as remarkable as those cross-border cities did on that winter day. The contrast between two countries, two economies, two peoples was all symbolically embodied in two roads.

A paved street in San Diego.

A muddy path in Tijuana.

Thirty years later, Romo is driving through Tijuana and is stopped at a red light. Yes, he says, this is where he walked so many years ago.

He is now 58, showing gray around his temples, and working as the coastal training program coordinator for the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve. He is in Tijuana to meet with local planners about an effort to bring sewer service to a local neighborhood called San Bernardo.

His meeting has its roots in that winter day. Those muddy roads that thwarted him then still cut through poor colonias like San Bernardo. They are an indicator of poverty that breeds health problems in Tijuana and environmental problems in San Diego.

At the stoplight, Romo gestures at the sprawling development just beyond the windshield. Old ranches are gone, replaced by an exhaust-choked road and a sea of plastic business signs -- indicators of a burgeoning economy fueled by globalization: Pemex gas station. A bank. A Chinese restaurant. Graffiti-stained buildings disappear into the potholed, four-lane-wide distance.

This is Tijuana, where development has outpaced infrastructure, where the wide gap between haves and have-nots is blatantly evident not far from this paved road. There, in colonias and squatter camps, roofs are tin or tarp-covered. Streets are dusty in summer, muddy in winter. Potholes are filled with stones. Walls are old garage doors. Average daily wages are about \$8.

Romo is fascinated by this, even now.

"This place has magic," he says. "It's not just the economy or the culture."

He points to Tijuana's topography. The city looms above San Diego. This is one reason Romo works to prevent Mexican pollution -- raw sewage, tires, silt -- from sweeping down through Mexico's border canyons and into the Tijuana estuary. Forty acres of the 2,500-acre salt marsh were lost to that erosion last year.

"Everything that happens here ends up there," he says.

In the United States. In the estuary. On San Diego's beaches.

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Rancho Cuchuma/Tecate Peak

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to land and natural resource conservation. Together, the two organizations developed the first private environmental easement in Mexico. Their objective for the conservation easement is preservation of natural resources, scenic beauty and the historical and cultural values of the land in perpetuity.

In an effort to further strengthen and expand the focus of the conservation easement, Pronatura and Fundacion La Puerta envisioned building a partnership with the adjacent land owners in the United States. Both organizations felt that as land managing agencies the BLM and CDF shared a common interest of sustaining the integrity of biological and natural resource systems within the Tecate Peak region.

In 2005, the four organizations developed a formal partnership under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU provides an avenue in which the parties can work together to obtain a common goal of resource conservation and biodiversity for the border region. The parties have agreed to work together to develop a proactive and coordinated approach to assessing the biological and cultural values of the land and the relationship of these lands to the long-term needs of the area's native plants, animals, and human population. The MOU also strengthens each organization's commitment to making maintenance and management of the area's unique biological diversity and cultural values a principal goal in the design and implementation of their respective habitat conservation programs.

Now that the initial step (MOU) in the development of the partnership has been completed, the partners will move forward working together to identify and resolve issues and needs common to all four organizations. Long term potential exists to expand the area of conservation to include surrounding private land and new partners. 

Great Places Program

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also providing an analytical tool, the Universal Model Builder (UMB), to planners and other decision-makers. The UMB allows a user to take state and local data, give importance or "weight" to each layer and produce maps displaying the results of the user's weighting. The program has updated natural resource information, which includes public conservation trust lands (open space, public recreation), habitat and protected lands (easements) and maintains the California Digital Atlas. The program will work with regional governmental entities to update General Plan and other planning data. Because 20% of all land within the San Joaquin Valley is owned by CBC governmental entities, they were asked to join a GPP vegetation mapping effort in the region (San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern counties). Several CBC members committed to participate on the GPP workgroup: US Bureau of Reclamation, US National Park Service, US Forest Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, and Parks and Recreation. Policy and GIS technical representatives will evaluate current vegetation mapping activities/priorities in the SJV and identify ways to: 1) improve access and sharing of vegetation data and spatial information with local and regional decision-makers; 2) improve vegetation mapping, such as implementation of vegetation standards developed by CBC members; and 3) develop a joint vegetation mapping project in the San Joaquin Valley. Results from the GPP vegetation work group will be presented to the Great Places Management Group and the CBC. Additional CBC members who want to participate on the workgroup should contact Luree Stetson, Program Coordinator at luree.stetson@conservation.ca.gov or call 916.323-6733.



Las Californias Bina-tional Conservation Initiative

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natural lands in urban areas that provide quality of life benefits as well as the last vestiges of habitat for severely threatened species.

To date, approximately 2,500 acres out of 21,700 acres targeted in San Diego County have been conserved. In Baja California, new legal tools that allow land owners to voluntarily restrict the type and amount of development to protect natural resources are being tried. For example, in 2003 Pronatura signed a conservation easement with Fundación La Puerta, a private landowner, to conserve 2,000 acres of na-



© Richard Herrmann, Courtesy of The Nature Conservancy

tive habitat at the base of Tecate Peak.

Las Californias represents a unique opportunity for governments, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector to work binationally

on a pioneering effort that will protect and enrich the health, economy and standard of living for all border residents. ↻

A BETTER TIJUANA, ONE HOME AT A TIME

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He pauses. "It's kind of the revenge," he says.

Another Way

In a Tijuana neighborhood where some chain their cars to posts for safekeeping at night, where many residents are simply trying to survive and many homes lack windows, Romo has a goal: "I want them to have sunlight coming in."

San Bernardo. The 800-home colonia sits in Los Laureles Canyon, a place Romo calls the crudest example of Mexican poverty. Sick dogs roam trash-covered ditches. Paved roads disappear. Winter rainfalls -- like the one that turned Romo's suit muddy in the 1970s -- carve fresh gullies in the road and send the sediment washing into the Tijuana estuary, which sits in southern San Diego.

Romo has a vision for this neighborhood. He wants to build 40 environmentally friendly homes made partially from bamboo. He points to homes in the areas surrounding San Bernardo as the root of many Mexican social problems.

Many homes are little more than scraps sculpted into shelter. Others built by U.S. volunteers look like dollhouses on the outside, Romo says, but are too warm in summer, too cold in winter. They lack plumbing. One common pipe leads out.

Sewage drains into the street, which flows into the canyon, into the Tijuana River, across the border and onto southern San Diego beaches, forcing frequent closures.

"That dwelling is not healthy," he says. Perhaps, he says, those homes explain why Tijuana schoolchildren are always playing in the street.

Romo will travel to Veracruz later this year to check on a bamboo supply. He wants to bring back enough to begin grow-

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Invasive Species *Update*

by Mike Chapel,
US Forest Service

Background

The California Biodiversity Council met in December 2005 to discuss invasive species in California. At the close of the meeting, the California Resources Agency offered some initial thoughts to improve statewide coordination with prevention, early detection, and quick response to new occurrences of invasive plants and animals in the state. The Resources Agency also proposed that the CBC host an interagency workshop to follow up on the discussions from this meeting.

The Council subsequently organized a workshop in Sacramento on January 19 to consider ways for improving agency effectiveness and efficiency through better coordination.

Twenty-one agencies participated in this workshop. Each agency provided an overview of its programs for preventing, detecting, and managing invasive species. It was clear from the presentations that many agencies are working hard on this issue. Federal agencies are guided by a national strategy. Most federal agencies have developed their own plan for implementing the national strategy. The state has recently completed a plan for addressing invasive weed species and a plan for aquatic species has also been drafted. County governments are assisting with the implementation of invasive species programs and extensive research is

ongoing by all levels of government. A high level of coordination is already occurring, particularly with invasive weeds, agricultural pests, and some aquatic organisms. However, all parties in attendance agreed that everyone would benefit from increased coordination. The group then identified three topics that would be the focus of work. Volunteer subcommittees were then formed to work on each topic. The results of this work was shared at a second workshop on March 23 as follows:

Topic 1. State Strategic Plan for Invasive Species

Jeff Herod (FWS) was the chair of this subcommittee. The team drafted an outline for a state strategic plan. Useful sources of information were identified and recommendations for helping a state plan conform to other state and federal plans were developed. The team provided 12 suggested elements to focus activities in the plan.

Topic 2. Environmental Permitting

Maria Rea (EPA) and Russ Strach (NOAA Fisheries) led this subcommittee. Several permitting agencies met and developed the following recommendations:

1. Each agency should continue their individual efforts to make the permit process more streamlined
2. Establish/implement an ad hoc coordinated response team to help with permitting
3. Develop written "declarations" that regulatory agencies can endorse at a senior level that will allow rapid permits under some critical conditions
4. Pick one or two pilot projects to test the utility of multi-resource BMPs
5. Develop an internet-based approach to get relevant information from permitting agencies

Methods for following through with these recommendations were discussed at the March 23 Workshop. Participants agreed to address the recommendations during planning for rapid response planning (see next topic).

Topic 3. Rapid Response Planning

Mark Stanley (Resources Agency) led an effort to consolidate information about available resources for rapid responses to

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Invasive Species

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invasive species. A small subgroup is working to develop a draft response plan that could be used as a template for new invasive species in California. The response plan could also be used to guide coordination of current activities that focus on invasive species that are already in the state. Next, the draft plan will be presented to key state and federal agency secretaries and directors for their input and concurrence. Heading this effort is Mike Wintemute, deputy secretary for external affairs at the Resources Agency.

Once the agency directors have reviewed the draft response plan, the CBC work group will reconvene to begin working on an action plan for existing and potential new invasive species. The unified response plan will better coordinate early detection and diagnosis with a pre-planned response for eradication and or control as well as to facilitate better communications between agencies, groups and departments involved in the plan. An integrated response plan will also speed the response to new detections and therefore increase the likelihood of success for control before significant environmental and/or economic damage can occur. ♪

A BETTER TIJUANA, ONE HOME AT A TIME

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ing it near Tecate in Valle de las Palmas, an area devastated by sand extraction. Then construction will begin on those 40 homes.

They'll be served by a paved street -- one lined with pervious pavers, blocks of stone that allow water to drain through, unlike asphalt. When it rains, the runoff will soak into the ground rather than drain into the surrounding waters.

He sees cross-border benefits. For San Diego: Less sediment will course down into the estuary. For Tijuana: Ground-water aquifers can be recharged, allowing trees and plants to grow.

The project got an early boost. Romo found out the land was owned by the city. While many neighborhoods around it are illegal squatter settlements, this tract was legitimately owned. Romo went to a contact in the Tijuana government - a man he calls Jorge -- to ask for permission to build on the land.

This is what Romo, a native of the central Mexico city of Aguascalientes, is known for. Getting projects done. Adeptly navigating the Mexican government -- from the president to the city council to Jorge. That's Jorge Hank Rhon, Tijuana's mayor.

His job experiences have helped make those connections. He teaches a class about sustainable development at University of California, San Diego. And he has served as vice president of Tijuana's chamber of commerce.

"Oscar is very, very good at understanding how to move the Mexican political system forward to make something happen," says Serge Dedina, executive director of Wildcoast, an Imperial Beach-based environmental group. "It's something only Mexicans can do, and it's something you have to be very, very good at."

Mike McCoy, vice president of the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association, which employs Romo, puts it another way: "He understands how Mexico thinks."

Romo, who lives in the Chula Vista neighborhood of Eastlake, hopes the San Bernardo effort will set an example for projects to follow. The paving project, he hopes, will help him convince Tijuana city officials to begin using pervious pavers throughout the city.

"It's a long process," he says. "And what they need is an example."

A better way, he says.

Homes that are comfortable. Environmentally friendly. Inexpensive.

It starts in San Bernardo. One road, and 40 homes.

With windows.

With sunlight.



Reprinted with permission from voiceofsandiego.org

Council Learns About Coordinated Planning in the Central Valley

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The Conservation Setting in the Central Valley

Dr. Michael Teitz (Public Policy Institute) opened this discussion by explaining that the human population in the Central Valley is projected to increase from 3 - 7 million over the next 40 years. Considerable attendant impacts to air quality, water, and habitats are forecast. The key question facing the region today is how to channel growth in ways that are environmentally responsible.

Carl Whiteside (Great Valley Center) described the historic development and population growth patterns in the Valley. She explained the central role of agriculture in the development and economy of the region. Ms. Whiteside noted that the population in the Central Valley has doubled every 30 years since 1900, and the region is now growing faster than Mexico. Most of the recent and projected population growth in the Valley is a result of foreign immigration. Low wages, rising home costs, and other factors are now contributing to increasing poverty. Environmental degradation is also a growing challenge. Ms. Whiteside stressed that the Central Valley could soon become an economic burden to the state and nation without timely investments in the infrastructure to address the projected social, economic, and environ-



Field Trip Participants observe the Central Valley's Grasslands from the Los Banos Wildlife Area viewing platform

mental trends. She described a new initiative, The San Joaquin Valley Partnership, that was recently formed under state leadership to address these concerns.

Agency Cooperation - Regional Growth Management

Joan Sullenberger (California Business, Housing, and Transportation Agency) opened this panel by describing the new Blue Print Planning Program. This program has been organized to develop growth-management strategies for sub-regions of the state. The University of California is providing decision-support services for community-based working groups of citizens and government within the sub-regions. Merced County was cited

as an example of a pilot project which led to a regional transportation plan that has broad support within the community and local agencies.

Next, Linda Budge (City Council of Rancho Cordova) described another example of a regional planning under the Blue Print Planning Program. She outlined work by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) to coordinate housing and transportation development at the neighborhood, city, and county scales in the region. This program relied heavily on a series of stakeholder workshops. The products are now being incorporated into local area plans at each of these scales.

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Coordinated Planning in the Central Valley

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Rod Meade (consultant) closed this panel by summarizing some of the initial work to coordinated regional planning across the nine counties in the Central Valley. Mr. Meade explained that the complexities among governments, special interests, and issues at this scale are presenting formidable challenges to regional coordination. He forecasted that, although leaders from the region have agreed on a set of nine guiding principles, finding consensus on the many issues in the region will take longer and be more difficult than in the sub-regional efforts that are under way.

Agency Coordination - Resources Conservation

Ruth Coleman (California Department of Parks and Recreation) began this panel by describing the new Central Valley Vision program at DPR. The goal for this program is to provide citizen-driven expansion and management of the state park system in the Valley. The DPR held ten workshops throughout the region. Citizens advised that the top priorities for providing recreation to the growing population in the Valley should be more access to: 1) rivers and lakes; 2) cultural and historic sites; 3) important natural and scenic areas; 4) alternatives to traditional tent camping; and 5) off-highway vehicle facilities. The Department is

now drafting a management strategy for the Valley that focuses on these elements. They are also seeking partnerships among the members of the Biodiversity Council as they plan for open space in the region.

Russ Strach (NOAA Fisheries Service) offered some preliminary insight into the new Central Valley Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Program. The program is still in the early stages of development, but the goal will be to recover Chinook and steelhead populations to the San Joaquin River and its tributaries in the region. Members of the CBC will be invited to participate with the recovery effort when details

about the program are developed in more detail.

Luree Stetson (Great Places Program) presented a progress report on the Great Places Program. This program has been developed to assist local, state and regional planning in California. The program is designed to improve and integrate natural resource and key planning data. Access to the information is enhanced through an online, centralized spatial data system. The program has also established processes for sharing data between local, regional and state entities. Federal agencies were invited to join this program during the meeting. ↩

Council to Meet on Ecosystem Services

The roles for environmental services markets to conserve biodiversity

Conservation interests are increasingly turning to the use of economic markets as incentives for providing ecosystem services, including the conservation of biodiversity. The practice of conservation banking was pioneered in southern California in the early 1990s. Efforts to date have focused on private land. However, the burgeoning worldwide use of conservation credits and environmental services marketing may provide useful lessons for improving conservation in California.

The **December 14, 2006** meeting will examine statewide, national, and international programs for using market systems to conserve biodiversity. Current programs for managing carbon emissions will be used to illustrate robust conservation programs that enjoy broad support and growing participation nationally and internationally. Next, ongoing work to develop markets for water and air quality will be presented to illustrate additional market-based programs for environmental services that are under development. Finally, the current and potential future roles for markets to conserve biodiversity will be discussed. ↩

Reading

The U.S. and Mexico: The Bear and the Porcupine by Jeffrey Davidow, U.S. ambassador to Mexico from 1998 to 2002. Addressing such issues as the Mexican drug world and US immigration policy, Davidow's analysis seeks to inform, educate, and contribute to dissolving the obstacles to understanding on both sides of border. Available for \$24.95 from Markus Wiener Publishers at <http://markuswiener.com>.

CONSERVATION ACROSS BORDERS: Biodiversity in an Interdependent World by Charles C. Chester presents a broad overview of the history of transboundary conservation efforts and an accessible introduction to current issues surrounding the subject. Available from Island Press, \$60.00, at <http://www.islandpress.com/>.

The GLOBAL CARBON CYCLE: Integrating Humans, Climate, and the Natural World gives an introductory over-view of the carbon cycle, with multidisciplinary contributions covering biological, physical, and social science aspects. It covers such topics as carbon-climate-human interactions; carbon management options; spatial and temporal distribution of sources and sinks of carbon dioxide; and socio-economic driving forces of emissions scenarios. Available from Island Press, \$45.00, at <http://www.islandpress.com/>.

Selling Forest Environmental Services: Market-Based Mechanisms for Conservation and Development. Based on extensive research and case studies of markets for biodiversity conservation, watershed protection and carbon sequestration, this book demonstrates how payment systems can be established in practice, their effectiveness and their implications for the poor. Available from <http://www.amazon.com> for \$33.34.

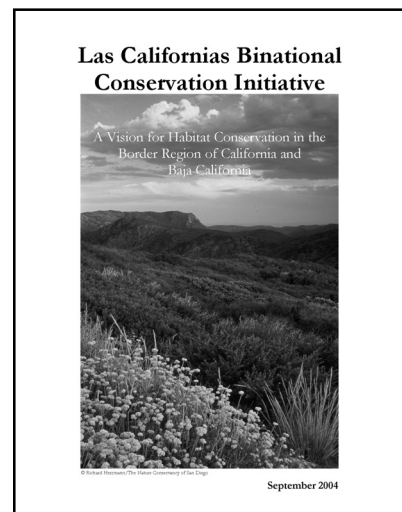
Nature And The Marketplace: Capturing The Value Of Ecosystem Services by Geoffrey Heal examines the real prospects for nature's marketable services to produce lucrative returns at levels that exceed today's ecologically destructive business activities. Available from Island Press, \$26.00, at <http://www.islandpress.com/>.

Capturing Carbon and Conserving Biodiversity: The Market Approach by Ian Swingland. Ecologists, conservationists, lawyers, and atmospheric scientists detail the benefits of alternative market-based systems for reducing and sequestering the carbon emissions currently threatening the planet with global warming and destruction of animal and human habitat. Available from <http://www.powells.com> for \$24.95.

MEASURING LANDSCAPES: A Planner's Handbook by Andre Botequilha Leitao and Joseph Miller bridges the gap between scientists who study landscapes and the planners and conservationists who decide how best to preserve and build environmentally-sound habitats. Until now, only a small portion of the relevant science has influenced the decision-making arenas where the future of our landscapes is debated and decided. Available from Island Press, \$35.00, at <http://www.islandpress.com/>.

Digital Resources

The Las Californias Binational Conservation Initiative, which began under the leadership of Pronatura and expanded to include The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Conservation Biology Institute, discusses the biogeographic significance of the California-Baja California border region and proposes a binational conservation network that would recognize shared resources. This fascinating report is available online, at http://www.consbio.org/cbi/projects/lcbi/lcbi_pdf.htm



The Ecosystem Marketplace is a new online resource where providers and beneficiaries of ecosystem services can capture the value associated with ecosystem services. The website provides a coordinated and informative platform for buyers and sellers of ecosystem services to meet and communicate. For more information about ecosystem services go to www.ecosystemmarketplace.com.

Upcoming Events

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**Oct. 5-
Oct. 7** ***Trans-Border Migration and Development:
Promoting Economic Opportunities in
Mexico and the Border Region***

Sponsor: University of San Diego

Location: San Diego, California

Contact: (619) 260-4090

<http://www.sandiego.edu/tbi/>

**Oct. 5-
Oct. 7** ***California Invasive Plant Council
Symposium***

***Research and Management:
Bridging the Gap***

Sponsor: California IPC

Location: Sonoma, California

Contact: Doug Johnson, (510) 843-3902

dwjohanson@cal-ipc.org

http://www.cal-ipc.org/2006_symposium/

**Oct. 9-
Oct. 12** ***6th Annual California Oak Symposium***

Sponsor: California Biodiversity Council

Location: Rohnert Park, California

Contact: Sherry Cooper, 530-224-4902

slcooper@nature.berkeley.edu

<http://danr.ucop.edu/ihrmp/symposium.html>

**Oct. 23-
Oct. 25** ***4th Biennial CALFED Science Conference
"Making Sense of Complexity: Science for a
Changing Environment"***

Sponsor: CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Location: Sacramento, California

Contact: Larry Brown, lrbrown@usgs.gov or

Anke Mueller-Solger,

amueller@water.ca.gov

<http://science.calwater.ca.gov/>

**Nov 1-
Nov. 4** ***2006 CARCD Annual Conference***

Sponsor: California Association of Resource
Conservation Districts

Location: Santa Rosa, California

Contact: (916) 457-7904

<http://www.carcd.org/conf2006/conf2006.htm>

Dec. 14 ***California Biodiversity Council
Ecosystem Services Meeting***

Sponsor: California Biodiversity Council

Location: Sacramento, California

Contact: Lauren McNees, 916/445-5845

lauren.mcnees@fire.ca.gov

<http://ceres.ca.gov/biodiv/meetings.html>

2 0 0 7

**Apr. 11-
Apr. 12** ***California Biodiversity Council
Off-Highway Vehicle Use in California***

Sponsor: California Biodiversity Council

Location: TBD, California

Contact: Lauren McNees, 916/445-5845

lauren.mcnees@fire.ca.gov

<http://ceres.ca.gov/biodiv/meetings.html>

**Oct. 3-
Oct. 4** ***California Biodiversity Council
Topic To Be Determined***

Sponsor: California Biodiversity Council

Location: TBD, California

Contact: Lauren McNees, 916/445-5845

lauren.mcnees@fire.ca.gov

<http://ceres.ca.gov/biodiv/meetings.html>



California's Bioregions

The California Biodiversity Council approaches biological conservation in California at a bioregional scale. These bioregions are primarily based upon the state's physiographic provinces.

STATE

Mike Chrisman (CBC Co-Chair)
Secretary for Resources
Mike Wintemute, Deputy Secretary for External Affairs
CA Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Peter Douglas, Executive Director
Susan Hansch, Chief Deputy Director
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont Street #2000
San Francisco, CA 94105

Will Semmes, Director
California Conservation Corps
1719 24th Street
Sacramento, CA 95816

James D. Boyd, Commissioner
Roger Johnson, Manager, Siting and Compliance Office
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Linda Adams, Secretary
CA Environmental Protection Agency
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Will Kempton, Director
Gregg Albright, Deputy Director of Planning
CA Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Bridgett Luther, Director
CA Department of Conservation
801 K Street MS 24-01
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ryan Broddrick, Director
Banky Curtis, Deputy Director,
Habitat Conservation Division
CA Department of Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

A.G. Kawamura, Secretary
Gerry Miller, Senior Environmental Planner
CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street #409
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ruben Grijalva, Chief Acting Director
Bill Stewart, Asst. Deputy Director,
Fire and Resource Assessment Prgm
CA Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection
Post Office Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Ruth Coleman, Director
Rick Rayburn, Chief, Natural Resources
CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Lester Snow, Director
Derrick Adachi, Environmental Compliance & Evaluation Branch
CA Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Bill Mungary, Chair
Larry Myers, Executive Director
Native American Heritage Commission
915 Capitol Mall, Room 364
Sacramento, CA 95814

Will Travis, Executive Director
San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission
50 California Street, Suite 2600
San Francisco, CA 94111

Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer
Marc Beyeler, Program Manager
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway #1100
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Paul Thayer, Executive Officer
State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

Art Baggett, Board Chairman
State Water Resources Control Board
Post Office Box 4025
Sacramento, CA 95814

W. R. "Reg" Gomes, Vice President
Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Bill Frost, Program Leader,
Natural Resources
University of California
1111 Franklin St.
Oakland, CA 94607

FEDERAL

Mike Pool, State Director (CBC Co-Chair)
Tony Danna, Deputy State Director
Bureau of Land Management
2800 Cottage Way, W-1834
Sacramento, CA 95825-1886

Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director
Frank Michny, Regional Environmental Officer
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Department of the Interior
2800 Cottage Way, E-2604
Sacramento, CA 95825

Wayne Nastri, Administrator
Jovita Pajarillo, Deputy Director,
Public Affairs Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street, 18th floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

Holly Price, Acting Superintendent
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (NOAA)
299 Foam Street, Suite D
Monterey, CA 93940

Rodney McInnis, Deputy Regional Administrator
Russ Strach, Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources, NMFS Southwest Region
National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA)
501 West Ocean Boulevard #4200
Long Beach, CA 90802

Jon Jarvis, Regional Director
Patty Neubacher, Deputy Regional Director
National Park Service
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607

Ed Burton, State Conservationist
Luana Kiger, Special Assistant to the State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
430 G Street #4164
Davis, CA 95616

Steve Thompson, Manager
Ken McDermond, Deputy Manager
California/Nevada Operations
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way, W-2606
Sacramento, CA 95825

Representatives

CBC members are in normal text and representatives are in italics.

Bernie Weingardt, Regional Forester
Christine Nota, Regional Forester's Representative

USDA Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94492

Steven Schwarzbach, Ph.D., Director
Western Ecological Research Center
U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division
3020 State University Dr. East
Modoc Hall, Room 3006
Sacramento, CA 95819

Michael V. Shulters, Director's Representative for California
U.S. Geological Survey
6000 J Street, Placer Hall
Sacramento, CA 95819-6129

Colonel Joe Wendel
(Ex-officio member)
U.S. Marine Corps, Western Regional Environmental Coordination
Bldg 1164, Room 106, Box 555246
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055-5246

LOCAL

Patrick Truman, President
Tacy Currey, Executive Director
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
801 K Street, Suite 1415
Sacramento, CA 95814

TBD
California State Assn. of Counties

TBD
Northern California Counties Assn.

Michael Delbar, Supervisor
County of Mendocino
North Coastal California Counties Association
501 Low Gap Road #1090
Ukiah, CA 95482

Robert A. Meacher, Supervisor
County of Plumas
Regional Council of Rural Counties
Post Office Box 10207
Quincy, CA 95971

John Silva, Supervisor
County of Solano
Sacramento-Mother Lode Regional Association of California Counties
1410 Georgia Street
Vallejo, CA 94590

Crystal Crawford, Mayor,
City of Del Mar
Member, SANDAG Board of Directors
Janet Fairbanks, Senior Regional Planner
San Diego Assn. of Governments (SANDAG)
401 B Street Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101

Bob Pickard, Supervisor
County of Mariposa
San Joaquin Valley Regional Association of Counties
5088 Bullion Street
Mariposa, CA 95338

Steve Bennett, Supervisor
County of Ventura
South Coast Association of Counties
Ventura County Government Center
800 South Victoria Avenue, L-1900
Ventura, CA 93009

Margaret Clark, Council Member,
City of Rosemead
Jessica Kirchner
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)
818 West 7th Street, 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017-3435

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Managing Editor/Graphic Designer

Lauren McNees, California Biodiversity Council

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Send all changes of address, subscription requests, and other correspondence to:

*California Biodiversity Council
c/o CDF Fire & Resource Assessment Prgm
PO Box 944246
Sacramento, California 94244*

*Help Desk: 916.445-5845
Fax: 916.324-1180
lauren.mcnees@fire.ca.gov*

Mike Chrisman

*Secretary for Resources
California Resources Agency*

Mike Pool

*California State Director
Bureau of Land Management*

Arnold Schwarzenegger

*Governor
State of California*